

# SRAPPA

Inc.

Southeastern Regional Association  
of Physical Plant Administrators

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Newsletter

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## Katrina Recovery

At our Annual Conference, Joe Fisher, Immediate Past-President of SRAPPA, was charged with coordinating our relief effort to assist colleges and universities affected by Hurricane Katrina. We soon realized how difficult communication had become in the gulf area, as most email and phone contacts were inoperative. Our concern changed to pride once the spring semester began, and students who had relocated to institutions around the country returned to New Orleans in greater numbers than expected. From an article by Julia Cass in the January 29, 2006 *Washington Post*:

"Marvalene Hughes, (Dillard University's) president, expected only about a quarter of the pre-Katrina student body of 2,155 this semester and had to quickly book more rooms when half said they would come back. 'We were surprised. You might say shocked,' said Hughes, who became Dillard's ninth president in July, a month before the storm. Other university officials here report the same pleasant surprise. Xavier University, the nation's only historically black Catholic university, expected half its 4,100 students would return this semester; instead 3,110 are back on its restored campus, surrounded by uninhabitable houses and boarded-up shopping centers. Tulane University expected three-quarters of its 12,500 students and got 88 percent. Loyola University's current enrollment of 4,436 amounts to 81 percent of its pre-Katrina total."

As noted in a toast given by Joe Fisher at the Board Dinner in Memphis, "A man's measure is taken in adversity, and we salute Marion Bracy for his dedicated and courageous example." When Xavier University was inundated under twelve feet of water, Marion himself rowed a boat loaded with warm food to students stranded in the residence halls. Read Marion's story on page 5! Also, Tulane University opened its facilities to institutions of higher education in New Orleans as they recover from Katrina. SRAPPA showed its leadership quality!

See you at SRAPPA 2006 at Duke University, October 14-17!



Opening Reception Ribbon-cutting



Joe Fisher suddenly realizes that his Presidential duties will soon be over!



Registration Desk at the elegant Peabody Hotel



↑ Puttin' the English on it!



Entrance to "The Art of the Motorcycle" Exhibit at the Memphis Pyramid ↑



Harley-Davidson Motorcycle raffled off at the Conference —won by Chris Willis of the University of Virginia!



→ Bob and Linda McMains get next to the King (Spouses also enjoyed a tour of Graceland)!

# T Memphis T 2005



Alpha, Belfor, and Sempra Booths in the Exhibit Hall

Jodie Sweat, APPA Representative for Professional Affairs, reports at the Business Lunch



Outgoing President Joe Fisher hands the gavel to Incoming President Marion Bracy



Dr. Sam Polk, APPA Vice President for Educational Programs



The Ballroom of the Peabody Hotel



Memphis 2005



A Cooking Demonstration for spouses at Viking



The membership agreed unanimously to give all the T-shirts for the T-shirt exchange to schools affected by Katrina



Rooftop Reception Sponsored by Carrier



Food!



More Food!



Two Gentlemen from Carrier



Liz Raiteri of the University of Memphis is rewarded for all her hard work!

## **Takin' Care of Business!—SRAPPA 2005**

*Hosted in grand style by the University of Memphis*

The 54<sup>th</sup> Annual SRAPPA Conference, "Takin' Care of Business in Memphis," held at the famous Peabody Hotel in downtown Memphis, was a great success. Early arrivals enjoyed a golf tournament at the Cherokee Valley Golf Club, and the Conference kicked off with a Rock 'n' Roll Reception in The Skyway, an elegant nightclub at the top of the Peabody, with Elvis himself in attendance. Other social events included a barbecue picnic at the University of Memphis, followed by a spectacular show of the University of Memphis's most musically talented students. We know we'll be hearing more from them!

Everyone enjoyed the Peabody Duck March, as five of our most pampered feathered friends traveled by elevator from their penthouse home each morning and waddled along the red carpet to the lovely lobby fountain, then returned each evening, accompanied by a rousing John Phillips Sousa tune.

Members were offered complimentary tickets to "The Art of the Motorcycle," a once-in-a-lifetime exhibit held in the famous Memphis Pyramid. Over 90 vendors exhibited at the Conference; visits to the vendor booths in the exhibit hall were rewarded with bingo chips, and each "bingo!" was good for one entry in the raffle of a brand-new Harley Davidson Sportster motorcycle. Chris Willis of the University of Virginia was the lucky winner.

Revisions of the Constitution and By-Laws were approved by the membership at the Business Breakfast, thus culminating over a year of efforts to clarify and update both documents.

Larry Blake, Assistant Vice President for Facilities at Northern Kentucky University, graciously offered to host the 56<sup>th</sup> SRAPPA Conference in 2007, and was unanimously elected as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. Other members of the SRAPPA 2005-2006 Board of Directors:

- Marion Bracy, President
- James E. Hellums, President-Elect
- Glenn Reynolds, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President
- Jeff Turner, Vice President for Long-Range Planning
- Kate Van Sant, Vice President for Communications
- Sylvester Johnson, Vice President at Large
- David Gray, Secretary/Treasurer
- Joseph C. Fisher, APPA Representative-Elect
- Robert E. McMains, Junior APPA Representative
- William M. Elvey, Senior APPA Representative
- Steve Glazner, APPA Liaison to SRAPPA

We were honored to be joined by Ed Rice, immediate Past President of APPA, and APPA Executive Vice President Lander Medlin.

The many educational sessions were well attended, including special forums for New Members, Getting Involved in APPA, Diversity, and Women in Facilities.

Attendees also had the opportunity to enjoy an outing at Grand Casino, and the spouses were treated to a tour of Graceland and a cooking demonstration with lunch at the world-famous Viking appliance company. The Conference ended with a reception on the roof of the Peabody, a presentation on next year's conference at Duke University, and a banquet in the Skyway Lounge.

***Our compliments to the University of Memphis for a great job!***

***See you at SRAPPA 2006 at Duke University, October 14-17!***

## Katrina Recovery at Xavier University

By Marion Bracy, SRAPPA President

In August 2005, the world stayed glued to their televisions, radios, and other media as we witnessed the unfolding of the greatest natural disaster in our nation's history. Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast; left floodwaters in the streets of New Orleans that made the entire city look like one large body of water; and resulted in billions of dollars in damaged property, homes destroyed, infrastructure wrecked, over 1100 lives lost, and nearly 400,000 families were misplaced.

Virtually every building on the campus of Xavier University of Louisiana was flooded by this catastrophic event on August 29. Some campus facilities had as much as eight feet of water, which did not recede for about three weeks. One could only have imagined the great amount of black mold that climbed the walls and took over buildings as tall as three stories.

Eleven of twelve professional employees reporting to the Office of Facility Planning and Management, including myself, lost their homes. A true testament to their loyalty is evident because most of these folks put their own personal losses aside to make sure that Xavier University would be able to open its doors in January 2006. Although some chose not to return, for a host of understandable reasons, most of them rolled up their sleeves and got to work.



The campus repairs have been extensive, to put it mildly. The first floor of virtually every building on the campus had to be gutted and cleaned. In effect, the Central Plant, which serves as the heart of the campus operations, was totally destroyed by flood waters. Although fallen trees and storm debris have been cleaned up and hauled away, things are still not quite back to the pre-Katrina conditions.

To date, we have not received a great deal of financial support from outside sources. When I read the newspaper or listen to the news, I often wonder when the millions of dollars that were appropriated by Congress will be released to the cities, states, schools and other needed areas. So far in our recovery efforts, Xavier has spent over \$30 million to restore the campus to a "functional" state and has received nothing but promises from FEMA (Federal Employees Missing in Action), Congress, or the Insurance Companies.

Some areas are much farther along in the reconstruction process than others. All of the dormitories were completely restored to pre-Katrina conditions, as well as the University Center (cafeteria), Library, the Science Annex and the Pharmacy Buildings. The most inconvenient thing on the campus today is the inability to park. Temporary housing in the form of trailers has been installed on campus parking lots to assist faculty and staff with living quarters.

*...continued on page 5...*

*Katrina Recovery, continued*

A great deal of moral support, prayers, and encouragement has been shared with Xavier University from people around the country. A number of colleges and universities have also assisted in unusual ways. While I was here trying to put the puzzle back together on the ground, Grambling State University hosted our Fiscal Department and gave them operating space. Likewise, Xavier University of Ohio served as the backbone of our IT areas. Recently, another school made a conscious effort to go beyond the normal everyday boundaries. Jackson State University loaned a portable basketball court to Xavier University. After an agreement was reached by the President of Jackson State, Dr. Ronald Mason, Jr. and Xavier University President Dr. Norman Francis, then Wayne Goodwin, Associate Vice President of Facility at Jackson State, sent three of his best men to assist us with the installation of a gym floor.

What we have accomplished at Xavier University in just over four months is just short of a miracle. In mid-September 2005 when Dr. Francis shared his hopes of reopening the campus in January 2006 with the Administrative Staff, I seriously considered polishing off my resume. How could Xavier University come back when there was no infrastructure in the city? Where are the contractors, labor force, service industry, materials, and supplies? Do I want to be a part of that headache? But after listening to Dr. Francis's reasons, I felt an obligation to follow his lead. If we were going to fail, we would do it unified. If we succeeded, he could get the credit – he is the president. Well, in spite of the odds, we were successful. On January 17, 2006, 75% of the students that were enrolled prior to Katrina hitting the campus were back in the classrooms.

—Marion Bracy  
SRAPPA President

**WVAPPA 2005 Fall Conference**

The WVAPPA 2005 Fall Conference Dinner on Sunday, October 2, 2005 was held at the Mountain State University Culinary Arts Building, and “culinary arts” were indeed in evidence!

The menu included hors d'oeuvres of grilled shrimp on sourdough croutons, spinach and artichoke dip with pita chips, seared duck breast with onion marmalade on rye croutons, and an assorted cheese and antipasto platter. The appetizer featured pan-seared salmon with papaya salsa on a bed of rice pilaf, followed by a salad of mixed greens, jicama, oven-roasted tomatoes and raspberry vinaigrette. The outstanding entrée was grilled filet mignon with gorgonzola butter, roasted root vegetables, asparagus, tourné potatoes, and assorted homemade rolls. The Chef's assorted dessert sampler plate finished off the magical feast.

**FLAPPA 2nd Annual Conference**

FLAPPA is pleased to announce their 2nd Annual Conference: *Ownership in Action!* Hosted by the University of Florida Physical Plant Division. The conference will be held March 1-3, 2006 at the UF Hilton Hotel and Conference Center in beautiful Gainesville, Florida. Wednesday opens with a round of golf on the UF golf course then a Welcome Social at the Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art, located across the street from the Hilton Hotel. Thursday and Friday are filled with educational sessions in six tracks.

Details can be found at [http://www.flappa.org/conference\\_06/conference2006.htm](http://www.flappa.org/conference_06/conference2006.htm)



## NASHER MUSEUM OF ART OPENS ITS DOORS

(article courtesy of Erma Gray, the Duke University Facilities Management Department [Work Zone](#))

The new 65,000 square foot Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University was substantially completed on March 15, 2005, and the Museum and University staff began feverishly working to move into the new building, complete interior upfit work and punch list, install the initial exhibitions and be ready for their grand opening, which was held on October 2, 2005.

The structure is made of steel framing and precast concrete. The colors from Duke stone are mixed into the concrete so that the panel color compliments the rest of the campus. The building itself is considered a work of art, and virtually all of the building is useful space.

The loading dock is very large so that it can handle the largest of truck deliveries to receive any size artwork. It is also covered so that artwork being unloaded will be protected from the elements. Once inside the receiving space, there is an oversized elevator available to transport the works of art to the upper floors.

The building has a very unique shape. The central area is a glass atrium or great hall surrounded by 5 "boxes" or pavilions. One is the Auditorium Pavilion, another is the Educational Pavilion. The other three are galleries for the display of traveling art exhibitions and the permanent collection.

The Auditorium Pavilion is about 5,000 square feet and includes a 173-seat lecture hall, a stage with storage area, a control room and a projection room. This area is specifically made for lectures and performances. The Educational Pavilion houses two classrooms with glass exterior walls and electronic blinds. A café and kitchen overlook the southwest sculpture garden. There are about 100 seats in the café.

The other three pavilions are art galleries. There are airhandling units in each pavilion with controls that keep all areas precisely at 70 degrees and 50% humidity, according to archival standards. The air-handling units will also move controlled air into the great hall through vents in the five large steel roofing beams that support the glass roof.

The building was named for Raymond D. Nasher, a 1943 Duke graduate, and his late wife Patsy, who have one of the largest collections of contemporary art in the country. Mr. Nasher, who lives in Dallas, donated \$7.5 million for the project. The Nasher Foundation of Dallas, which Mr. Nasher founded, donated \$2.5 million.

Architect: Rafael Vinoly. Contractor: HC Beck. Office of University Architect Project Manager: Ron W. Djuren.

## Northern Kentucky University to Host SRAPPA 2007!

Northern Kentucky University (NKU), an institution of 14,000 students seven miles south of Cincinnati, occupies a hilltop location with enviable views in all directions, including views of downtown Cincinnati. The first building on Northern's campus opened in 1974. Property acquisition through the years has increased land holdings to about 400 acres. The campus currently has about 2.4 million gross square feet. From a master planning perspective, the hilltop concept is compared to an Italian hill town, with a central plaza connecting buildings at an upper level, in a relatively compact massing arrangement. A growing outer ring of buildings increases the pedestrian-only zone of the original inner core area. Lower plaza areas and gathering spaces, such as the newly renovated lake area, reinforce the pedestrian and community quality of the campus. Parking tends to ring the campus. Green space has been preserved, and ongoing efforts are focused on increasing the quality of the landscape.



*The NKU Campus*

*The Renovated NKU Lake Area*



NKU, the location of the 2007 SRAPPA conference, is fortunate to have received funding for several new facilities in recent years to meet the needs of its growing enrollment. Since 2002, the University has completed construction of a 155,000 square foot building for the Natural Sciences; a 400 bed suite style residence hall; a 682 car parking garage; and, a 18,000 square foot steam and chilled water plant. In addition, a \$2.4 million privately funded renovation of a former farm pond into a central campus landscape feature, including a bridge and an amphitheater, is nearing completion. Construction will begin this spring on a 9,000 seat regional special events center to be known as the Bank of Kentucky Center. If all goes as planned, dinner for SRAPPA 2007 conference attendees will be the first event held in the Bank of Kentucky Center. A new 144,000 square foot Student Union facility is slated to be under construction during the same time period. Also in the planning phase is a new 725 car parking garage to serve the campus, as well as a town/gown partnership development project that will bring a hotel, office buildings and restaurant space to a site adjacent to the Bank of Kentucky Center.

Future funding priorities include a \$15 million renovation of the former Science Building, now known as Founders Hall; a \$23 million Center for Informatics, an academic building that will house the departments of Communication, Information Sciences, and Computer Science; and the Health Innovations Center, a \$20 million academic building housing the School of Nursing and Health Sciences and the Department of Psychology. These projects were ranked among the State's top ten higher education projects in a ranking process prepared by Kentucky's Council on Postsecondary Education in late 2005. Funding will be considered by the Kentucky Legislature during the 2006 biennial session.

***We look forward to visiting the beautiful facilities at Northern Kentucky University!***

***See you at SRAPPA 2006 at Duke University, October 14-17!***

## SRAPPA Business Partner News

**Heavyweight Award**

Boxing champion George Foreman, sitting, presents AARP's top award to Stanley Consultants' President and CEO Gregs Thomopoulos. Foreman was the keynote speaker at AARP's awards reception and dinner held at Chicago's Drake Hotel, where Stanley Consultants was honored as the country's Best Employer for Workers Over 50. Also pictured, from left, William D. Novelli, CEO of AARP, Marie Smith, President of AARP, and Dick Stanley, Stanley Consultants' Chairman of the Board. Stanley Consultants provides engineering, environmental, and construction services worldwide.



**Report from Glenn Reynolds**  
**First Vice President**  
 (Glenn.Reynolds@duke.edu)

To build on the thoughts I shared in the last newsletter about our responsibilities as members of SRAPPA, I thought this might be an opportune time to look at how we, as managers, get things done. Let me share some thoughts that the Facilities Management Team here at Duke had after reading the Bossidy and Charan book, Execution, The Discipline of Getting Things Done.



**Truism: "A Leader Must be Deeply and Passionately Engaged in Execution"**

As we reviewed this text as a Management Team within our department, we discussed that Execution is also called a "culture of closure," or simply "getting things done." It requires linking the three elements of people, strategy, and operations.

Briefly, for an organization to succeed, the leadership and employees at all levels must first be honest about the performance of the organization. They must make a commitment to developing the members (employees) and develop a workable plan or strategy for the organization to accomplish its goals and commitments. Then they must dedicate themselves to meeting their commitments. For the organization to succeed over time, the commitment to execute must become so ingrained that it is part of the cultural work ethic of the team.

Creating a culture of closure is a time-consuming process. It requires direct, deep, and passionate involvement by the leadership of the organization, from the President (Director or CEO) down through all levels of management to the employee on the front line. That involvement absolutely cannot be delegated. At Allied Signal, Larry Bossidy spent eight years working personally to create the culture. In that time, the company tripled its rate of return on equity and increased return to shareholders nine-fold. But after he left, new management shifted its focus to other matters, especially to a merger with Honeywell, and failed to maintain its involvement in maintaining the discipline of execution. In less than two years, the discipline unraveled and the company lost its competitive edge.

*...continued on page 10..*

*Report from Glenn Reynolds, continued:*

The service mission of our Facilities Departments, and I would say SRAPPA, is very much dependent on Execution. Above all else, our universities and the SRAPPA organization look to leadership for closure - getting the job done. Do we make sure that activities are complete, that customers, employees and superiors are kept abreast of progress and most of all, ensure that closure is achieved?

Do we have a realistic view of our organization? Do we honestly view how the organization is performing, meeting the needs of customers? Do we have a vision that is shared by all members? Our organizations are changing constantly. We cannot depend on the leader to get everything done, push all initiatives and check on all the details. We must have a culture where we are each disciplined to do our part, to get things done. However, the leader must make sure that everything is on-track, moving to completion, and get it on track if not.

Doing this within our individual departments may be easier for most of us to embrace, to visualize and to actually implement. Within the SRAPPA organization, it may be more difficult. SRAPPA is physically and geographically dispersed, relying on email and websites to maintain contact instead of daily or weekly meetings and discussions. This is what makes our SRAPPA annual meetings so valuable and the development of our state organizations so critical. We have to maximize the time we spend together, certainly to renew and develop friendships and professional associations, but also to share successes, lessons learned, plans, and initiatives. This is where we can be disciplined to do our part, for the success of the whole.

As leaders on our campuses, we have much to share with our fellow facilities and physical plant peers. We also have much to gain from a close and open association personally and professionally with one another. Sharing how we each approach issues, address problems and follow through to bring things to closure is one of the most valuable products of our association. I urge each of you to continue an active role if you are currently involved, and to consider an active role if you are not.

SRAPPA is all of us.

—Glenn Reynolds

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## Disaster Drills and Lessons Learned—Campus Emergency Preparedness Article #4

by

Joe Fisher, SRAPPA Immediate Past President  
Kate Van Sant, Vice President for Communications

This is the fourth in a series of articles detailing the process of campus emergency preparedness planning at West Virginia University (WVU). The first article, in the July 2004 issue of this Newsletter, was an overview of the process we followed in initializing campus emergency preparedness planning at WVU. The second article, in the January 2005 Newsletter, went into more detail about formulation and contents of the WVU Emergency Response Plan (ERP). The third article, in the Spring 2005 Newsletter, covered the set up and function of the WVU Emergency Operations Center (EOC). This article will provide general information about disaster drills and Weapons-of-Mass-Destruction (WMD) exercises in which our University has participated, and the lessons we have learned. For obvious security reasons, we will not go into specific detail about alternate site and other anti-terrorism decisions that we have developed with assistance of the Department of Homeland Security. Rather, we will describe the methodologies and considerations that resulted in those decisions.

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**See you at SRAPPA 2006 at Duke University, October 14-17!**

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## Planning

West Virginia University is fortunate to have been included in a number of WMD exercises sponsored by the United States Department of Homeland Security, Office of Domestic Preparedness. These drills incorporated the emergency systems of Monongalia County and the City of Morgantown, West Virginia, in which our University resides; they were organized by the WMD Exercise Coordinator of the Morgantown Fire Department or by the West Virginia Virtual Medical Campus. It is important to note that our first reaction to the announcement of these drills was that they were being “thrust upon us,” and with the intense construction program underway at WVU we were uncomfortable dedicating the appropriate amount of time to these activities. After the first major drill, we were able to see the value of going through such exercises. We are grateful that these activities were organized on such a large scale so as to include us. They yanked us out of our daily routine and enabled us to approach our emergency planning in coordination with other agencies.

The scenarios presented during these drills included structure fire, explosion, building collapse, a sniper, a suspicious package, a biological weapon dispersed through the transportation system, a disease outbreak and quarantine, and food poisoning. All of these simulated events occurred on the physical campus of West Virginia University, often with several of the crises happening simultaneously.

Some drills were organized as purely “table top” activities, that is, activities and communication were simulated within one space. Other exercises involved the WVU Emergency Operations Center (WVU EOC), led by Joe Fisher, Associate Vice President for Facilities and Services; the Monongalia Emergency Centralized Communications Agency (MECCA); and in some instances even a designated site for the incident and volunteers exhibiting various artificial injuries. All communication was prefaced with the statement: “This is a drill.”

## Participants

The following agencies participated in some or all of the exercises held in this area over the past few years:

- Federal Bureau of Investigation
- West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection
- West Virginia Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
- West Virginia 35<sup>th</sup> Civil Support Team
- West Virginia Regional Response Team
- County of Monongalia
- City of Morgantown
- Monongalia Emergency Centralized Communications Agency (MECCA)
- Monongalia County Emergency Medical Services
- Monongalia County HazMat
- Monongalia County Health Department
- Monongalia County Medical Examiner's Office
- Monongalia County Sheriff's Department
- Monongalia General Hospital
- Morgantown Fire Department
- Morgantown Police Department
- Morgantown Department of Public Works
- Ruby Memorial Hospital
- West Virginia Virtual Medical Campus
- West Virginia University
- American Red Cross
- Local Ambulance Companies

*...continued on page 12...*

## Challenges

During these drills, the West Virginia University Emergency Operations Center, commanded by Joe Fisher, offered or was asked to provide the following information, material, and actions:

- Delivery of sawhorses for traffic control
- List of chemicals stored at the site of a fire/explosion
- Floor plans of the site of a fire/explosion
- An industrial hygienist with air monitors and detectors to ascertain air quality following a fire/explosion
- Transportation for non-wounded personnel following a fire/explosion
- Recommendation of an employee relocation site following a fire/explosion
- Evacuation and securing of WVU buildings for use as backup hospitals during an epidemic
- Transportation shutdown to prevent disease spread
- Shutting down of air handlers to prevent diseased spread
- Transportation of bedding from residence halls to backup hospital
- Direction of all WVU bus drivers to County Health Department for inoculation
- Provision of surgical masks for staff
- Set up for press conference
- Dispatch of campus police officers to residence halls and remote parking lots to prevent violations of quarantine
- Arrangements for housing, feeding of staff staying on campus.
- Dispatching WVU Public Safety bomb dog to check out suspicious packages
- Identification of alternate sites to transport people from building near suspicious packages
- Closure of dining hall that was the source of food poisoning
- Dispatching Campus Police to report of a sniper on the roof

The WVU EOC was able to provide all of the above.

## Lessons Learned

Information and services that were requested during these drills but that we did not provide:

- A structural engineer for professional advice on stability of a building after an explosion
- A list of employees working, or at least assigned, to a partially burned, chemically contaminated building
- A list of communications and requests projected in the Emergency Operations Center
- An on-screen, web-based connection to other emergency agencies during the event
- A status briefing every half hour in the Emergency Operations Center
- A method of keeping the campus alert if the Homeland Security Advisory System goes to Orange and remains there for more than a few days.

These problems were addressed in briefings following the relevant drill, and solutions have been or are being developed for the future. Specifically:

- Appendix L of the West Virginia University Emergency Response Plan lists "Emergency Resources" (other than equipment, which is Appendix M) within the county, including contact information. A structural engineer would be considered such a resource and listed in Appendix L.

...continued on page 13...

- A representative of Human Resources is included in the West Virginia University Emergency Operations Center. Also, Human Resources provides a disk listing all WVU employees and relevant data. This is kept locked in the EOC and is updated/replaced twice a year.
- Plans for a new West Virginia University Emergency Operations Center include a built-in projection system connected to a computer for entering all communications received and tasks assigned during activation of the EOC, a kitchen, a rest area, and a generator with fuel for three days of operation.
- Software is being evaluated that provides on-screen, computerized connection to other emergency agencies during an event.
- Internal status briefings will be held every half hour in the West Virginia University Emergency Operations Center during activation.
- The West Virginia University Building Supervisors' Program has a central role in planning for and addressing emergencies on campus. We will go into this in more detail in our next article. When the Homeland Security Advisory System changes the terrorism alert level, one method used for dissemination of the news throughout WVU is the Building Supervisors' email and telephone network. An additional section has been added to the procedures assigned to this group when the Homeland Security alert is raised to orange or red:

After 3 to 4 days at continued orange/red alert, assuming there are no earlier developments, ask Public Safety if any further particular information has been received. If not, remind Building Supervisors of orange/red Alert, and remind them again to:

1. Secure laboratories
2. Secure storage areas for chemicals/equipment
3. Review evacuation documents and posted evacuation routes with building employees
4. Advise Public Safety of unattended vehicles or packages, or any other suspicious activity.

Repeat each week until Alert is dropped to yellow/orange or raised to red.

### Conclusion

As stated above, with a major construction program underway at WVU, we were hesitant about reserving the appropriate amount of time for disaster response exercises, some of which took up most of a workday, but once we began participating, we saw multiple advantages in the drills themselves and in the resulting dialogues with other emergency planning agencies. We wholeheartedly endorse participation in this sort of exercise for institutions of higher education, in order to improve internal practices and to prepare for coordination with surrounding governments and organizations.

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**SRAPPA Members—this is your newsletter!**

*Send items of interest, articles, photos to*

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